

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185683
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNJOHNSON
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
S/S:JETHYDEN

-----071165 101419Z /44

O R 061751Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185683

EXDIS

(CORRECTED COPY FOR ADDITION OF ADDRESSEE NAIROBI)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, US, YO

SUBJECT:YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA -
FRENCH QUERY

REF: (A) BELGRADE 5277 (NOTAL);(B) PARIS 20195 (NOTAL)
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1. THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF THE YUGOSLAV
TANK TRANSFER IN GENERAL TERMS WHEN HE LAST SAW FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD. IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THE FRENCH ARE STILL PURSUING THE QUESTION (REF A)
DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMB. BELGRADE THAT WE SHOULD PRO-
VIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO THEFRENCH, WEST GERMANS AND

BRITISH, STRESSING THE NEED IN ALL CASES TO MAINTAIN
CONFIDENTIALITY.

2. ACCORDINGLY, ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE AUTHORIZED TO
INFORM APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT THE USG
LEARNED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT
HAD TRANSFERRED A LARGE NUMBER (ABOUT 70) OF US-SUPPLIED
M-47 (PATTON) TANKS TO ETHIOPIA, IN VIOLATION OF THE TERMS
UNDER WHICH THOSE TANKS WERE PROVIDED TO YUGOSLAVIA IN
THE 1960S. THE USG HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER, WHICH IT
VIEWS WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS, WITH THE YUGOSLAV GOVERN-

MENT, AND WAS ASSURED THAT THE EVENT WAS INADVERTANT AND
WOULD NOT RECUR. THE USG PLANS TO REVIEW WITH THE YUGO-
SLAVS IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE MATTER OF DISPOSITION OF
US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

3. THE USG URGES THAT STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY BE MAIN-
TAINED SO THAT THE ISSUE NOT BECOME A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN
YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE US, AND MORE BROADLY,
WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE
CLOSELY HELD AND NOT DISCUSSED WITH HOST GOVERNMENT
OR OTHER THIRD-COUNTRY OFFICIALS.

CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770888/aaaacwoc.tel
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Litigation History:
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